

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: SAUVAGNARGUES ON FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS

WHILE WE ASSUME THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY SEEN PRESS SERVICE REPORTS ON FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES COMMENTS AT AN ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON JULY 11, WE BELIEVE THAT THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS TRANSLATED FROM A TAPE RECORDING OF THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE OF INTEREST.

"I CAN REVEAL NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT THESE CONVERSATIONS (WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER) FOR THE VERY SIMPLE REASON THAT THEY ARE WHAT I WOULD CALL A STAGE IN THE FRANCO-AMERICAN DIALOGUE WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE I TOOK THIS JOB, SINCE I ... TOOK THE TENSION OUT OF FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND SINCE WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN WHAT I WOULD CALL DIRECT AND CONFIDENT ... EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE. THESE PROBLEMS ... OFTEN REQUIRE ON OUR PART, ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE, RESPONSES WHICH ARE NOT TOTALLY IDENTICAL FOR ONE SIMPLE REASON, NAMELY, THAT FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES ARE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INTERESTS WHICH COULD NEVER BE CONTRADICTORY, I BELIEVE, BUT WHICH ARE RARELY, IT MUST BE SAID, TOTALLY IDENTICAL. SAID DIFFERENTLY, WE DEFENDED OUR VIEWPOINTS WITH GREAT FIRMNESS. THE UNITED STATES, AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, DEFENDED ITS OWN AND IT OFTEN SEEMED THAT THE

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IDEAS WHICH WE WERE DEFENDING, WHICH AT FIRST BLUSH

CREATED MISUNDERSTANDING, YOU MIGHT EVEN SAY IRRITATION, WERE AFTER A CERTAIN TIME CONSIDERED AS POSITIVE AND IN THE COMMON INTEREST. THIS HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF THE (PRODUCER-CONSUMER) DIALOGUE. IT HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF INDOCHINA AND IT HAS HAPPENED ON VARIOUS OTHER OCCASIONS WHEN IT APPEARED THAT THE INITIATIVES OF FRANCE, OF THAT FRANCE WHOSE DIPLOMACY IS CALLED ONE OF ACCOMMODATION ... BUT WHOSE POLITICAL DIRECTION ONE DOES NOT EASILY SEE SINCE THE FRENCH APPARENTLY DESIRE TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH EVERYBODY, ... IT EVENTUALLY APPEARS THAT WE HAVE ACTED NOT AS SHARP SHOOTERS, BUT, PERHAPS, MORE AS ADVANCE MEN.

"THUS I WOULD SAY THAT MY RELATIONS WITH HENRY KISSINGER ARE FIRST OF ALL EXTRAORDINARILY CORDIAL ... AND CONFIDENT. WE ALL KNOW THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE DEFENDS AMERICAN INTERESTS AND THAT THE FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEFENDS FRENCH INTERESTS BUT THAT EACH ACTS WITH THE PROFOUND CONVICTION THAT THESE INTERESTS ARE NOT ONLY EVENTUALLY RECONCILABLE, BUT COMPLIMENTARY AND THAT THIS COMPLIMENTARITY CAN WORK IN THE COMMON INTEREST ... (THE FACT) THAT FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE GOOD RESPONDS TO THE NATURE OF THINGS. THE UNITED STATES IS FRANCE'S OLDEST ALLY. PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE, AS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE, RESULT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FACTS. THESE ARE THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE POWER, A DISPARITY WHICH ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES IMPLIES, I WOULD SAY, BOTH RETICENCE AND MODERATION AND ON THE PART OF THE LESS POWERFUL PARTNER, THE DESIRE AND THE CONCERN NOT TO PROVOKE USELESS DIFFICULTIES AND NOT TO INFLATE USELESSLY THE INEVITABLE DIFFERENCES ... THAT IS THE CLIMATE OF FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS GOOD."

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